

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2010

**ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT TO HEAR ORAL ARGUMENTS AT
BRADLEY UNIVERSITY**

The Illinois Appellate Court for the Third District will be hearing oral arguments on Tuesday, October 26 at Bradley University in Peoria as part of an ongoing Judicial Education program initiated by Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride.

Justice Kilbride, who was elected to the Supreme Court in 2000, becomes Chief Justice effective the same day.

Bradley University is the last of four campuses in recent weeks at which the Third District Appellate Court has held oral arguments to bring students and citizens an opportunity to witness firsthand the Illinois judiciary at work.

Oral arguments at Bradley are scheduled to start at 10 a.m. at the Marty Theatre in the Robert H. Michel Student Center. Justice Kilbride will welcome and address the audience before the Appellate Court convenes.

"It is important for a community to see how cases proceed through our court system," said Justice Kilbride. "It is important to see how judges listen to all sides in a case, and apply the existing law to the facts in a particular case to achieve a proper legal outcome rooted in the fair and impartial administration of justice."

Oral arguments were heard September 17 at Kankakee Community College; October 1 at Lewis University; and Augustana College on October 7.

"More than three years ago, I heard Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor talk about the lack of civics education in our schools, and the need to explain the importance of a fair and impartial judiciary in our overall constitutional structure," said Justice Kilbride. "At that time, I decided I would do my part to explain the judicial system in Illinois to pupils and students at every level. Since then, I have gone to numerous schools, including elementary, high schools and colleges.

"This is a continuation of those efforts, going to colleges to show in real time how one level of our court system works."

MORE

Illinois Appellate Court to Hear Cases at Colleges Add One

Ordinarily, oral arguments in the Third District are heard at the historic courthouse in Ottawa.

The Illinois Appellate Court in other districts has held oral arguments at law schools in the state, but this may be the first time in Illinois that appellate oral arguments will be presented for the general student populace and the community.

“Having the Appellate Court on campus is a wonderful opportunity for our students and the entire Bradley community to learn about the judicial system and to see the Justices hear arguments and hold court. We are honored to host the Appellate Court on our campus,” said Bradley University President Joanne Glasser.

The civil case to be heard at Bradley University is In re: Marriage of Robert Casares v. Barbara Casares. The case involves the appeal of decisions made by the trial court in certain property determinations during the dissolution of marriage proceeding.

The criminal case to be heard at Bradley University is People v. Stephen J. Chromik. It involves the appeal of a criminal sexual assault conviction and sentence of a former Woodford County teacher.

Following the arguments, the judges of the appellate panel will take the case under advisement and issue their written ruling at a later date.

–30–

(FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Joseph Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312.793.2323)